

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 6, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claim 1, as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An optical system which projects an image using a light generated by three monochromatic light sources corresponding to three primary colors comprising:

a diffractive optical element comprising:

a first layer having a relief-type grating;

a second layer having a relief-type grating; and

a third layer having a relief-type grating;

said first, second and third layers being formed of different materials;

said diffractive optical element having plural ~~at least three~~ diffraction optical parts in the boundary areas of the respective layers;

said diffractive optical element being set so that, at three wavelengths, the design diffraction efficiency thereof for diffracted light of a predetermined order is 100% maximum, said three wavelengths being substantially coincident with wavelengths of light generated by each of the three monochromatic light sources, and the wavelengths of light generated by the three monochromatic light sources being 450 ± 20 nm, 550 ± 20 nm and 650 ± 20 nm.

2. (Original) The diffractive optical element of Claim 1, wherein at least one air layer is included among said first, second and third layers.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)